

BURMA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

940,700

Estimated Number of People in Burma in Need of Humanitarian Assistance During 2015

Humanitarian Country Team – December 2014

540,700

Estimated Number of People in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan States and Mandalay Region in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

OCHA – June 2015

536,400

People in Burma Targeted to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in 2015

OCHA – June 2015

143,514

Number of IDPs in Rakhine State

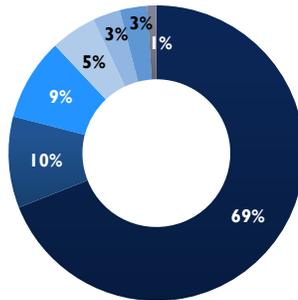
OCHA – August 2015

99,321

Number of IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan States

OCHA – August 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (69%)
- Shelter & Settlements (10%)
- Nutrition (9%)
- Health (5%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (3%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (1%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- Seasonal floods displace 100,000 people in Rakhine, 1.6 million people countrywide
- CERF allocates \$14 million in response to the ongoing complex emergency and flooding
- USG provides more than \$50 million to address conflict-related humanitarian needs in FY 2015

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$3,961,472
USAID/FFP	\$10,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$36,512,002
\$50,473,474	
TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE BURMA COMPLEX EMERGENCY	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Heavy seasonal rainfall that began in June and Tropical Cyclone Komen, which brought strong winds and additional rains to western Burma in late July, caused significant flooding and landslides throughout the country, displacing more than 1.6 million people by the end of August. In heavily affected Rakhine State, where more than 140,000 conflict-displaced people reside, floods and strong winds damaged at least a quarter of the shelters in 24 assessed camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), the UN reports.
- In response to the ongoing complex emergency in Burma, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated \$5 million in early August to provide emergency shelter support and health care, among other aid, to IDPs and other vulnerable populations. Due to the recent floods, the CERF subsequently contributed an additional \$9 million to assist flood-affected populations in the most-affected areas, including Rakhine.
- In FY 2015, USAID provided nearly \$14 million in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Burma, supporting efforts to increase vulnerable populations' access to food and safe drinking water; improve their economic and health conditions; and strengthen management capacity at IDP camps. In addition, State/PRM provided nearly \$37 million to support IDPs in Burma and Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in neighboring countries. Separately from its assistance to conflict-affected people, USAID contributed approximately \$5.1 million for humanitarian flood-relief activities in Burma.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

CURRENT EVENTS

- As of September 30, negotiations continued for a nationwide ceasefire between the Government of Burma (GoB) and the country's armed groups. However, GoB exclusion of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta-ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Arakan Army from the discussion remained a point of contention, leaving some armed groups undecided on whether to sign the proposed agreement, according to national media. The GoB has expressed hopes that the ceasefire signing will occur in October, prior to the general elections scheduled for November 8.
- Between August 3 and 7, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar Yanghee Lee met with government officials, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in Burma as part of her mandate to assess the country's human rights conditions. Special Rapporteur Lee expressed several concerns following her trip, noting that government refusal of her request to visit Rakhine and disruptions to her itinerary, such as suddenly cancelled meetings with government representatives, obstructed her attempts to evaluate human rights conditions in Burma.
- Migrant maritime movements from Bangladesh and Burma are expected to recommence as the monsoon season ends in September, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On August 31, UNHCR issued a statement urging governments in the region to adopt steps proposed by UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to address the challenges of sea migration. UNHCR reports that approximately 31,000 people departed Bangladesh and Burma by sea during the first half of 2015, marking a 34 percent increase over the same period in 2014.
- In response to the maritime migrant crisis in May and June, State/PRM provided \$3 million to IOM and \$3.25 million to UNHCR to assist vulnerable migrants traveling by sea from Bangladesh and Burma. The State/PRM contribution is supporting the provision of temporary shelter, emergency relief items, and health, nutrition, and psychosocial assistance and enabling efforts to address protection issues and root causes of migration and develop solutions for migrants arriving in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Burma. These contributions complement State/PRM's nearly \$37 million in funding provided in FY 2015 to assist Burmese refugees and IDPs throughout the region.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

Kachin and Northern Shan States

- Intermittent clashes between GoB military forces and opposition fighters persist in Kachin and northern Shan, and approximately 100,000 people remained displaced in the two states as of August due to ongoing insecurity, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- In August, new fighting erupted between the Burmese Army and opposition groups the Restoration Council of Shan State and the TNLA in northern Shan, including Kyaukme, Mongmit, and Namhsan townships, national media report. Further, between September 18 and 27, renewed fighting between the Burmese Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin's Mansi Township displaced more than 300 people.
- On June 25, mortar shelling by the Burmese Army in Kachin's Laiza town struck near an IDP boarding school hosting nearly 1,000 students and approximately 95 teachers. In response, the Joint Strategy Team—composed of nine local relief organizations involved in the humanitarian response in Kachin and northern Shan—issued a statement demanding that parties to the conflict respect international humanitarian law and halt attacks on civilian targets.
- On August 18, the GoB extended a 90-day state of emergency and period of martial law in northern Shan's Kokang self-administered zone for a second time. Burmese President Thein Sein initially declared the state of emergency on February 18 following clashes between GoB and MNDAA forces in Kokang. According to UN rapid assessments conducted in August, an estimated 6,000 people remained displaced in the self-administered zone, while approximately 21,000 people had returned to the area as widespread fighting subsided.

Rakhine State

- More than 143,500 people, the majority of whom are Rohingya, remained displaced in Rakhine as of August, according to OCHA. Nearly 70 percent of those displaced in Rakhine—approximately 99,000 people—reside in IDP camps in Sittwe Township.

- As of mid-July, only 1,600 Rohingya in Rakhine had exchanged their temporary identity certificates for the new identity cards for national verification (ICNVs), known colloquially as green or blue cards, since the GoB began issuing them in mid-June, international media report. The ICNVs serve as a precursor to applying for citizenship and are intended to replace the white cards—temporary resident identification cards bestowing the right to vote but no other rights—that the GoB revoked in March. According to media reports, GoB authorities had collected approximately 400,000 white cards by the May 31 deadline for holders, primarily Rohingya, to surrender their cards. As of late September, the GoB had indicated that ICNV holders would not be permitted to vote during the November general elections.
- The passage of Tropical Cyclone Komen near western Burma in late July severely affected Rakhine, with floods damaging or destroying more than 128,000 residences and 217,000 acres of farmland across the state, according to the GoB. The UN reported that the flooding also affected Rakhine’s IDP camps, causing damage to shelters and public infrastructure. In response, USG partners already providing assistance to conflict-affected communities when flooding occurred quickly adapted their activities to address the populations’ flood-relief needs. In addition, USAID contributed approximately \$5 million to support flood response activities in Burma, part of which benefited people in Rakhine.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

- According to the GoB, flooding during the monsoon season had completely destroyed approximately 21,000 houses throughout the country, including nearly 70 in Kachin, 130 in Shan, and 14,000 in Rakhine, as of early September. The GoB and its partners continue to address resultant shelter needs. In late August, UNHCR reported distributing plastic sheeting, blankets, and sleeping mats to flood-affected populations in Rakhine, and IOM indicated plans to distribute approximately 6,200 shelter kits in affected areas of Rakhine, including Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung townships.
- As of June, relief actors working on shelter support had provided approximately 162,200 IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan with access to temporary shelters that meet minimum humanitarian standards, according to OCHA’s second quarterly monitoring report of the 2015 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In the report, members of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian camp coordination and management activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—noted that a lack of clarity on the Rakhine State Government’s longer-term plans for IDPs, including the possibilities of relocation or return, remains a challenge to planning shelter activities.
- In FY 2015, USAID/OFDA provided \$400,000 to IOM to support ongoing shelter activities—including IDP camp management, partner capacity building, and technical assistance to the CCCM Cluster—in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. In addition, ongoing USAID/OFDA funding from FY 2014 supported Burmese NGO Metta Foundation to construct new durable shelters and communal kitchens and replace roofing and otherwise repair existing residences in Kachin IDP camps in FY 2015.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- Following negotiations with the GoB and Kachin State Government, as well as the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the UN World Food Program (WFP) obtained approval to resume food aid deliveries every other month between July and December 2015 to nine of the 17 IDP camps located in KIO-administered areas of Kachin State. In late July, WFP successfully delivered to these camps approximately 70 metric tons (MT) of pulses procured within Burma, sufficient to meet IDP food needs for August and September. While WFP has regular access to GoB-controlled areas of Kachin, the agency’s access to areas beyond government control is limited to occasions when the relevant authorities allow humanitarian cross-line missions.
- In FY 2015, as part of the USG’s response to the Burma complex emergency, USAID/FFP contributed \$10 million to WFP to locally and regionally procure food for approximately 55,000 IDPs and other vulnerable persons in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan. Since 2011, USAID/FFP has partnered with WFP to purchase locally produced rice, pulses, salt, and fortified blended foods, as well as vegetable oil produced in the region. In addition to the complex emergency funding, USAID/FFP provided \$3 million to WFP in FY 2015 to respond to the effects of the recent

floods, which caused significant damage to farmland throughout Burma. With USAID/FFP support, WFP is assisting approximately 150,000 flood-affected individuals with locally and regionally purchased food.

- In FY 2015, USAID/OFDA-funded projects implemented by Metta Foundation and Solidarités International helped improve food security and provide livelihoods opportunities for the most vulnerable IDPs in Kachin.

HEALTH AND WASH

- As of June, health actors had reached approximately 63,500 IDPs in Rakhine and 62,000 IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan with basic health care services, according to OCHA's second quarterly monitoring report of the 2015 Myanmar HRP. In the report, members of the Health Cluster highlighted that continued movement restrictions for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Rakhine are impeding their access to health services.
- The quarterly monitoring report also indicated that humanitarian organizations working in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan had provided approximately 345,000 people with adequate access to water for drinking and domestic use and nearly 268,000 people with access to sanitation facilities.
- With approximately \$900,000 in FY 2015, USAID/OFDA supports Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to respond to health, nutrition, and WASH needs among IDPs and host community members in Kachin and Rakhine. SC/US is implementing infant and young child feeding programs; increasing availability of maternal health services; ensuring IDP access to latrines and safe drinking water; and integrating a handwashing education program geared toward disease prevention. USAID/OFDA also provided \$2.4 million in FY 2015 to Solidarités International, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and ZOA to improve sanitation and water supply infrastructure and conduct hygiene promotion activities for IDPs and vulnerable populations in Kachin and Rakhine.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of September 30, international donors had provided approximately \$107 million, or 40 percent, of the \$265 million requested by the 2015 Myanmar HRP, which aims to reach an estimated 536,400 people in Burma in need of humanitarian assistance. International donors had also contributed an additional \$67 million to support humanitarian response activities in Burma outside of the HRP.

CONTEXT

- In early June 2011, a ceasefire between the GoB and the KIO broke down when fighting between GoB forces and the KIA erupted in southeastern Kachin. As of August 2015, an estimated 100,000 people remained displaced in Kachin and northern Shan—more than half of whom resided in areas beyond GoB control, with limited humanitarian access. Local NGOs continue to access displaced populations in KIO-controlled areas, including along the Burma–China border; however, access to some areas remains inconsistent.
- In Rakhine, an outbreak of inter-communal violence in June and October 2012 between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Rohingya and non-Rohingya Muslims displaced tens of thousands of people, according to OCHA. As of August 2015, approximately 143,000 people remained displaced in Rakhine, while other conflict-affected populations continued to lack access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities due to ongoing tensions and movement restrictions. Many of the IDPs in Rakhine are Rohingya—a minority group not formally recognized by the GoB and therefore denied rights to citizenship, public education, and freedom of movement within Burma.
- Approximately 400,000 of the 940,700 conflict-affected people identified by the UN as in need of humanitarian assistance reside in southeast Burma, including Kayah, Kayin, Mon, and southern Shan states, as well as the Bago and Taninthayi regions.
- On January 30, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Derek J. Mitchell re-declared a humanitarian disaster for Burma due to the ongoing complex emergency. USAID/OFDA regional advisors based in Bangkok, Thailand, remain in contact with humanitarian partners in Burma and continue to conduct assessments in affected areas of Kachin and Rakhine to assess humanitarian conditions, identify humanitarian gaps, and recommend response options.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Kachin, Rakhine	\$400,000
SC/US	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,000,000
Solidarités International	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Kachin, Rakhine	\$1,050,000
ZOA	WASH	Rakhine	\$511,472
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$3,961,472
USAID/FFP			
WFP	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Kachin, Rakhine, Shan	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$10,000,000
STATE/PRM			
International Organization/NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand	\$24,312,002
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance	Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Thailand	\$12,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$36,512,002
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IN FY 2015			\$50,473,474

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated amounts as of September 30, 2015.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>